WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for providing an oxygen sensitive container that indicates the presence of oxygen inside the container, the method comprising:

placing an oxygen sensitive material inside a sealable container;

evacuating air from the sealable container and sealing the sealable container to isolate the oxygen sensitive material from oxygen; and

irradiating the sealable container with an effective amount of radiation to activate the oxygen sensitive material such that the oxygen sensitive material undergoes a visual change in the presence of oxygen after the oxygen sensitive material has been irradiated, the visual change providing an indication of the presence of oxygen inside the sealable container.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of evacuating the air from the sealable container is performed in a vacuum.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of evacuating the air from the sealable container is performed in a non-oxygen gaseous environment.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of irradiating the sealable container uses gamma radiation to activate the oxygen sensitive material and to sterilize the sealable container and any contents thereof.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxygen sensitive material is a plastic material comprising a portion of a medical device and the sealable container is a sterile medical container, and wherein the step of placing the oxygen sensitive material inside the sealable container is accomplished by placing the medical device inside the sterile medical container such that the medical device undergoes no visual change until the sterile medical container is opened as long as no significant amounts of oxygen are present in the sterile medical container prior to the sterile medical container being opened.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the visual change of the oxygen sensitive material indicates a failure of the sealable container.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the visual change of the oxygen sensitive material occurs within 8 hours of exposure to a significant amount of oxygen.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the visual change of the oxygen sensitive material occurs within 1-2 hours of exposure to the significant amount of oxygen.

9. Apparatus for indicating the presence of oxygen comprising:

a sealable container that isolates contents of the container from ambient atmosphere when sealed; and

an oxygen sensitive material located within the sealable container, the oxygen sensitive material being a material that undergoes a visual change when in contact with

oxygen once the oxygen sensitive material has been irradiated after the sealable container has been sealed to activate the oxygen sensitive material.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the oxygen sensitive material comprises at least a portion of a medical device located within the sealable container such that the medical device itself is an oxygen indicator.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the oxygen sensitive material comprises a piece of material fixed inside the sealable container and separate from any other contents of the sealable container.

12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the visual change of the oxygen sensitive material indicates a failure of the sealable container.

13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the oxygen sensitive material is an oxygen sensitive polymeric composition.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the oxygen sensitive polymeric composition is a polycarbonate composition activated by an effective amount of gamma radiation.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the effective amount of gamma radiation is between about 25 Kilograys to 45 Kilograys.

16. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the sealable container comprises:

a gas impermeable foil pouch; and

a cardboard protective packaging for the foil pouch.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the gas impermeable foil pouch is a multi-layer foil package comprising:

a silicone oxide treated PET layer;

a foil layer;

a biaxilally oriented nylon layer; and

a polyethylene layer.

18. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the oxygen sensitive material is formed as a generally planar chip of material and is operably positioned adjacent a backing material such that a combination of the backing material and the planar chip of material increase effective visibility of the visual change in the oxygen sensitive material over visibility of visual change of the oxygen sensitive material alone.

19. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the oxygen sensitive material undergoes the visible change within less than 8 hours after exposure to a significant amount of oxygen.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the oxygen sensitive material undergoes the visible change within 1-2 hours after exposure to a significant amount of oxygen.

21. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the contents of the container include contents selected from the set consisting of: a medical device, a drug, a food product, or any combination thereof.

22. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the oxygen sensitive material is arranged to form at least one symbol that assists in interpreting the visible change of the oxygen sensitive material.